

Translines EXPRESS

Feb. 8, 2017

District Four

Golden anniversary: Pittsburg Area Engineer George Dockery was honored for a landmark 50 years of service to KDOT during a Feb. 3 coffee at the Pittsburg office. Dockery started at KDOT 1967 after graduating from the University of Arkansas with a degree in civil engineering. For more information about Dockery, see the #IAMKDOT feature later in this edition.



Among those attending the coffee to recognize Dockery, shown third from left, were, from left: Director of Operations Larry Thompson, State Transportation Engineer Catherine Patrick and District Engineer Wayne Gudmonson.

2017 Weight Loss Challenge

2017 Weight Loss Challenge:

To get healthier and work together in reducing the state's obesity rate, the Governor's Weight Loss Challenge will run from Feb. 14 to May 19. "My hope is that the Governor's Weight Loss Challenge will encourage everyone to work together to make our state healthier," said Gov. Sam Brownback. "I am challenging individual participants to compete in losing the highest percentage of weight, with the ultimate goal of taking on and maintaining a

Looking back: KDOT teams were successful in the 2013 Weight Loss Challenge. In fact, the Fort Scott Finishers placed second statewide (18.98 percent) and lost a collective 291.7 pounds during the event. And five other KDOT teams from across the state placed in the top 25.

healthier lifestyle for years to come." The challenge will award prizes, donated by private sector partners, to State of Kansas employees, including those in the Kansas Legislative and Judicial branches. A web-based tool will be used to track the progress of each participant. This tool is available to any non-state participant choosing to join the challenge; however, non-state participants will not be eligible for the prizes.

Participants must be registered by Feb. 14 - for more details, go to www.weightloss.ks.gov.

Trivia!

Beatles

1. In 1959, what was the name of the band, now known as the Beatles?
2. None of the Beatles could do this.
3. What was their first big hit in 1962?
4. Where and when did The Beatles give their first live U.S. television performance?
5. How many people watched that performance?
6. When did the Beatles break up?

U.S. DOT

Chao confirmed:

The Senate has confirmed Elaine Chao as the next Secretary of Transportation in a 93-6 vote on Jan. 31, according to an article in Better Roads. She was sworn in the same day.

She previously served as Labor Secretary under George W. Bush and as Deputy Transportation Secretary under George H.W. Bush.

"It is an honor to rejoin the extraordinary people of the U.S. Department of Transportation, and begin working with them to rebuild, refurbish and revitalize America's infrastructure," Chao says. "My goal has always been to help others access opportunity and build better lives for themselves and their families by supporting policies that foster job creation and workforce competitiveness. At this crucial time, the Department of Transportation can make a tremendous difference for our country." During her nomination hearing before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, Chao emphasized the need for sustained funding for transportation projects, with the potential for using public-private partnerships as an ingredient in a mix of financial methodologies.



**U.S. Transportation Secretary
Elaine Chao**

Image source: elainechao.com

State Maps

New 2017-2018 maps available:

There's no place like Kansas, and there's nothing like an Official State Transportation Map of the sunflower state to help get you where you want to go.

The new 2017-2018 Kansas Official State Transportation Map, published by KDOT, highlights numerous tourist and scenic locations across the state, including the latest Scenic Byway, the Land and Sky Scenic Byway, in northwest Kansas.

The map includes city and county indexes as well as a distance map that allows motorists to pick the best route to their destination. Visitor resources, helpful phone numbers and websites as well as lists of state recreation areas and museums are also provided.

On the back of the map are inset maps of Kansas City, Wichita, Topeka and 13 other cities. There is also road condition information and details on how to get roadside assistance.

Maps will be available at various travel information centers, attractions and other locations across the state. They can also be requested on the KDOT website at <http://www.ksdot.org/maps.asp>.



TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Johnny and the Moondogs
2. Read music.
3. "Love Me Do."
4. Feb. 9, 1964, on "The Ed Sullivan Show."
5. About 73 million viewers in more than 23 million households, or 34 percent of the American population.
6. McCartney filed suit for the dissolution of the Beatles' contractual partnership on Dec. 31, 1970. The dissolution was not formalized until Dec. 29, 1974.

District Six

Intersection sees upgrades: A project that began last spring to improve the U.S. 56/U.S. 83 intersection west of Sublette is wrapping up. The intersection was reconstructed from asphalt to concrete. Other improvements include a new box culvert west of the intersection and signing and pavement markings. In addition, railroad signal upgrades were made to allow easier movements of oversized loads and commercial entrances were adjusted.

Smoky Hill of Salina was the prime contractor on the \$4.4 million project in Haskell County. Kris Norton's road squad and Brad Rognlie's bridge squad designed the project.



Traffic drives through the upgraded U.S. 56/U.S. 83 intersection.



KTA

Work is continuing on two bridge projects along the KTA. At left, work is taking place on the piers underneath the Arkansas River bridge located at MM 45 on I-35/KTA. The work causes minimal impact to traffic. In addition, crews continued work on the bridge reconstruction project at MM 157 on I-335/KTA. They recently completed off-road work including earthwork, culvert and fencing in anticipation of starting the reconstruction of the southbound bridge at this location.

Kansas Transportation

Wednesday, Feb. 8

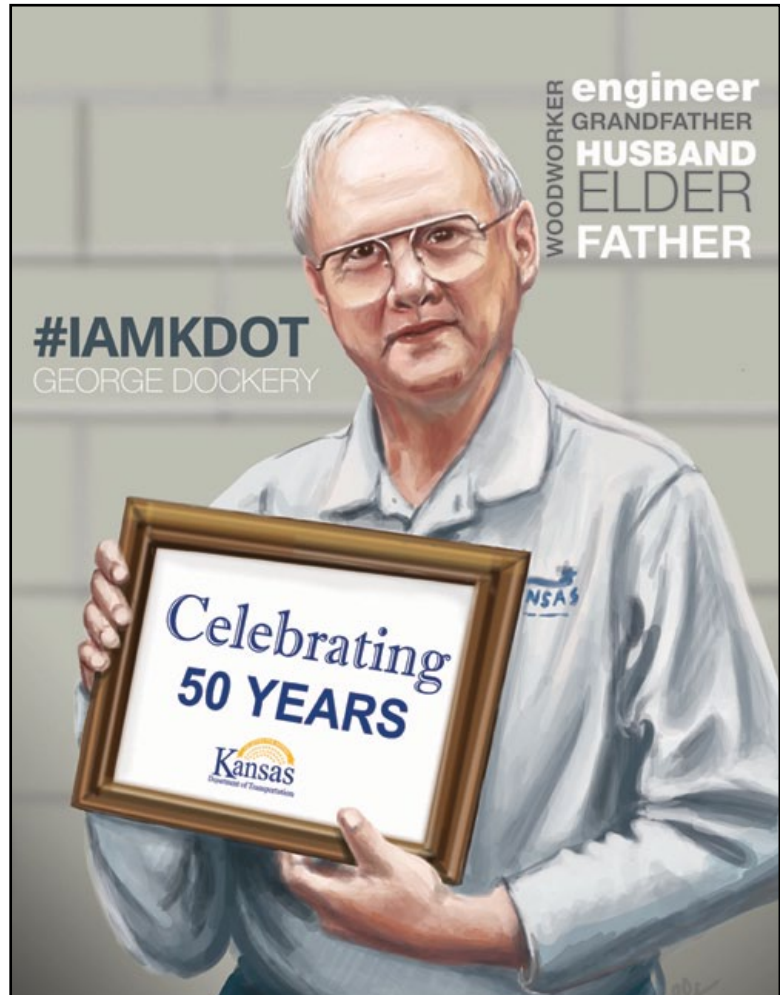
#IAMKDOT: George Dockery

This month's #IAMKDOT feature is George Dockery, P.E., Pittsburg Area Engineer in District Four.

Dockery just celebrated 50 years of service to KDOT. Dockery started his employment at KDOT in February 1967 at the Fort Scott construction office. He continued his career in different departments and bureaus at KDOT through the Rotational Training Program. Dockery has been the Area Engineer at Pittsburg since 1978. His previous positions included Project Engineer at Iola and Resident Engineer at Pittsburg. As Area Engineer, part of his position includes working with city and county officials on roads and bridges that receive KDOT funding. He also administers and monitors new construction on the state highway system. Dockery oversees the maintenance of several counties in District Four.

When Dockery is not at work, he is an active member of his church where he serves as an elder. He also enjoys woodworking. He is a husband, father and grandfather as well.

#IAMKDOT is an illustration project that recognizes KDOT employees who work hard to ensure Kansans enjoy safe roads, rails and skies. Safe and successful transportation also helps Kansans financially. Some employees of KDOT fill dangerous but necessary positions and this project also serves as a reminder for travelers to slow down and remember that underneath those neon vests, are individuals with families and hobbies waiting for them at home.



Do you know a KDOT worker that deserves recognition? Nominations are open! Email Mallory.Goeke@ks.gov today to get started!

To see more stories on other transportation topics, check out the regular posts on the Kansas Transportation blog at <http://kansastransportation.blogspot.com/>

Do you know of a KDOT retiree not receiving the electronic KDOT newsletter Translines?

Please let them know that if they are interested in receiving it, send an email to Kim.stich@ks.gov

Retiree

The following employee will retire from KDOT in March.

District One

Kevin Chambers, Equipment Operator, Topeka/Gage office

In Memory

Condolences to the family and friends of KDOT retiree Homer Reppart who died on Jan. 16 in Emporia. He worked at the Emporia office, retiring in 1993. This is a correction from the last edition - his last name was left out.

Rail

Transload progress:

Transload facilities that were first discussed by the Kansas Freight Advisory Committee in 2015 have received their first deliveries of wind energy components at Great Bend and Garden City. Transportation Partners and Logistics (TPL) at Garden City, which was completed Jan. 4, received its first wind blades Jan. 25. BNSF Railway is the serving railroad for the facility, which received a \$3 million grant from the State Rail Service Improvement Fund managed by KDOT. TPL has expanded from 50 acres in 2011 to more than 200

acres. TPL serves clients in the wind energy, solar component and other related industries.

The Great Bend facility, which is operated by Sherwood Companies and served by the Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad, also began receiving wind blades and tower sections in January. This month, shipments of nacelles (another wind energy component) began arriving. The facility will also be receiving aggregates soon. Phase 1



Above, the Garden City transload facility, which received a \$3 million grant from the State Rail Service Improvement Fund, was completed Jan. 4 and received its first shipment of wind turbine blades on Jan. 25. Below, wind tower components began arriving at the Great Bend transload facility in January. The recently-operational Great Bend facility also received a \$3 million grant from the rail fund.

of the site development comprises 18 acres. Dirt work is underway for new rail construction and rehabilitation of the existing industrial rail will be completed this month. Materials are on site and construction of the new rail yard should be completed in April.

Great Bend and Garden City emerged from 111 sites that were submitted to the Transload Facility Site Analysis team in 2015 as locations for transload facilities.



District Four



A project to add shoulders and extend a box culvert at a busy South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad crossing on U.S. 169 northeast of Coffeyville was recently approved. The crossing is approximately three miles south of the north U.S. 169/160 junction. The project is expected to start this spring, with U.S. 169 traffic carried through construction. Klaver Construction Company Inc., of Kingman is the contractor on the \$618,000 project. Steven Bass' road squad and Chris Meyer's bridge squad designed the project.

Scenic

KDOT's Neil Croxton took this photo of an abandoned church on old U.S. 24 near the west edge of Miltonvale.

